

*J. D. Webb*

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STATEMENT BY JAMES EDWIN WEBB BEFORE THE SENATE AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE SCIENCES COMMITTEE:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: My name is James Edwin Webb and I am now living at 3200 Idaho Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C. I am a citizen of Oklahoma and am here with my family because I am serving as Chairman of the Municipal Manpower Commission, an independent, national study commission, financed by the Ford Foundation and endeavoring to ascertain how able men and women can be attracted to and effectively utilized in the area of public service at the local government level.

For the past several years I have divided my time, roughly one-third going to business activities and two-thirds to public service activities.

For instance, I am serving as President and Trustee of Educational Services, Incorporated, of Watertown, Massachusetts. This is a non-profit corporation, financed by the National Science Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and is a specialized organization for directing high-level university scholarship and research to the improvement of the teaching of physics in secondary schools. Dr. J. R. Killian is Chairman of the Board. As President, it has been my responsibility to handle the organization of the effort and the business arrangements relating to the sale of these materials. As President, I serve as Chief Executive Officer on a part-time basis and am paid a part-time salary.

In the field of business, I am a Director of Kerr-McGee Oil Industries, Incorporated, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and serve also as Assistant to the President, Mr. Dean A. McGee. Here I carry no executive responsibilities but render assistance to Mr. McGee and, at his request, to other officers of the Company in the field of administration, organization and the development of policy. I am paid a salary on a part-time basis. I am also a director of McDonnell Aircraft Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri. In this case, I am not an officer of the company and have no duties except those as director.

In the area of public service, you have before you a list of my activities and I will mention only a few for illustration.

I am a trustee and member of the Executive Committee of The George Washington University here in Washington. I am a member of the Advisory Council of the School of Industrial Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a

member of the visiting committee of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University, and a member of the visiting committee of the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies.

I am a member of the Industrial Advisory Board of Oklahoma State University, a member of the Research Institute of the University of Oklahoma and also for that University, General Chairman of its Southwest Seminars in Public Responsibility. There are sixty-three universities in the country engaged in the application of university talent and research in the making of films, generally for educational purposes. These universities have a non-profit foundation known as the "University Film Foundation," with headquarters at Ames, Iowa, and I am a trustee of that Foundation.

Outside the university field, I am a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development of New York and a member of its Research and Policy, Education, and Area Development Committees. I am a trustee of the Citizenship Clearing House of New York and of the Frontiers of Science Foundation of Oklahoma. I am a trustee of the newly formed Transportation Research Foundation, of the Transportation Association of America, I have served on a number of advisory committees such as the one established by the Brookings Institution in connection with the transfer of presidential power from President Eisenhower to President Kennedy.

As to my activities in the past, I served from 1953-58 as President of the Republic Supply Company of Oklahoma City, and during that period engaged in a number of public service activities such as Director of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, a member of the National Advisory Cancer Council of the National Institutes of Health, as a member of the President's Committee to Study the U.S. Military Assistance Program, as a member of the Special Stockpile Advisory Committee to the Director of Defense Mobilization, as a member of the panel of Consultants on Medical Research and Education to Secretary Marion B. Folsom of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and as a Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, Kansas.

In the period prior to 1953, I served for three years as Undersecretary of State here in Washington, for three years as Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget, and for eight years as an officer of the Sperry-Gyroscope Company.

During World Warr II, I was on active duty as a Major in the 9th Aircraft Wing of the U. S. Marine Corps, and served for part of this time as Commanding Officer of the 1st Marine Air Warning Group.

Many of my activities have brought me into fields related to aeronautics and electronics. In 1930, I enlisted in the Marine Corps and became a reserve student aviator at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. I was designated a "Naval Aviator" in 1931 and commissioned a second lieutenant.

In 1932, I completed my tour of duty in Marine Aviation and became secretary to Congressman Edward W. Pou of the fourth N. C. District, then Chairman of the House Rules Committee. I continued my flying activity in the reserve unit at Anacostia D. C., serving as Operations Officer and then Commanding Officer of this unit. I also studied law at George Washington University Law School in the evenings and was released by Mr. Pou to work with former Governor O. Max Gardner of North Carolina in his law office. During this time he was General Counsel of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America, at that time a national association representing all aircraft manufacturers and air transport companies in the country. This work gave me an insight into the problems of the Aeronautical industry.

In 1936, I was admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia and moved to New York, where I became Assistant to the President and Personnel Director of the Sperry-Gyroscope Company. After five years in this capacity, I became Secretary and Treasurer and later Vice President of that Company. Although my duties did not include scientific problems, it was necessary, in the management of the personnel and financial programs, to work closely with the research, engineering and manufacturing divisions. During much of this period, the Company was working under some 1800 different contracts, manufacturing a wide variety of the most complex scientific equipment required for military use. There were more than 30,000 employees and part of my duties included responsibility for setting up the organization and procedures which combined the efforts and talents of this large and diversified endeavor.

In 1943, I applied for active duty and was first assigned as a student at the Naval Radar Training School at St. Simmons Island, Georgia, and then successively became Operations Officer and Commanding Officer of the First Marine Warning Group at Cherry Point, North Carolina. This activity involved the utilization of radar and other scientific equipment for the development of the capacity to operate night fighters as a defense against night bombing attacks.

At the end of the War, I returned to Washington to serve again with O. Max Gardner, Chairman of the Control Board for the Office of War Mobilization and Re-conversion. I joined his law firm.

In 1946, when Governor Gardner became Undersecretary of the Treasury, I became his Executive Assistant, and it was at his suggestion that President Truman appointed me Director of the Budget in August of 1946.

One of the urgent problems at this time was to determine which part of the wartime research and development activities should be continued and how they should be organized within the Government. As a first step, the Bureau of the Budget prepared the first complete compilation of all Federal research activities and incorporated it as a separate section in the Budget documents. A study and report by Dr. John R. Steelman followed and led to the passage of legislation establishing the National Science Foundation.

The list of activities which I have supplied indicates my experience with other areas associated with research and science. My experience provides a background, I believe, which will permit me to work effectively with Dr. Hugh Dryden, Deputy Director of NASA, the staff of the Agency, and others engaged in our national space effort.

It is my purpose, if confirmed, to resign from every association, organization or interest not consistent with my fulltime devotion to the duties of Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It is my purpose also to sell all equities of companies related in any way to the space program. To indicate my intention, I have prepared a list of my holdings which I understand you will examine in executive session. For your convenience, I have divided these into two groups indicating the group that I expect to sell and those which I believe have no relation to the space program. Further, it is my purpose to ask the Fidelity National Bank and Trust Company of Oklahoma City

to take custody of and manage the investment or re-investment of any securities retained. This will permit me to devote my full attention to my responsibilities as Administrator with the assurance that the bank is handling these affairs. As a part of this arrangement, I will instruct the bank to make no investment in any field related to the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The biographical material before you shows that I am a Presbyterian, a Democrat, am married and have two children; and that I am a member of a number of professional societies and associations. I was born October 7, 1906, at Tally Ho in Granville County, North Carolina. My father was John Frederick Webb Senior and my mother, Sarah Gorham Webb. My father served as County Superintendent of Schools in Granville County for 26 years.